

# B-huts improve Bagram's quality of life

Story and photo by Spc. Kelly Hunt  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – They're going up everywhere on Bagram making life a little more comfortable for coalition troops supporting Operation Enduring Freedom here at Bagram Air Base. B-huts are replacing the standard shelter option for troops.

There's several hundred (with) plans to build close to 800 of them," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Dave Horvat, Facility Engineers. The plans are to have nearly 1,200 structures built by 2006 but completion of the project is expected much earlier; possibly by July, according to the engineers.

"The largest amount of (B-huts) are (being built) at the old Italian camp which will now be for the Marines," said Horvat. "(We) have some going up in aviation, coalition forces (areas); the Air Force is getting a good bit of them and Camp Black-jack will have 40 of them probably by the



*Khuda Dad, a local national laborer, does his part to help build B-huts in the new Marine compound on Bagram Air Base.*

end of the week."

Construction pace is quick, said Horvat, and workers are completing approximately eight homes every two weeks. "There are 40 being built right now (in the

Marine area and) 12 more (will be) added to that in a couple weeks," he said.

But the increased number of B-huts is

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# Hospitals upgraded in Eastern Afghanistan

Story by Spc. Cain S. Claxton  
10th Mountain Division

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – A Combined Joint Task Force-180 medical team administered a much needed shot in the arm to three Afghan hospitals, installing \$750,000 worth of new equipment and training local health care workers how to use it.

Soldiers from the 452<sup>nd</sup> Combat Support Hospital, Milwaukee, Wis., refitted Nangarhar University Training Hospital and Public Hospital in Jalalabad, as well as Kandahar's Mir Wais Hospital, with new and upgraded equipment and supplies.

Nangarhar needed the most work, according to soldiers and hospital workers. The soldiers set up a new incubator, centrifuges, large sterilizers, beds and other supplies there.

"The hospital hadn't received new supplies in 23 years," said Capt. Scott Becker, a nurse with the task force. "(Workers there) are forced to reuse gauze and sutures. If a patient wants to have new supplies, (his) family would have to go to the bazaar and buy (them)."

Serving about 750 patients a day, Nangahar is Jalalabad's primary health care facility. Because of limited space – 250 of 270 beds are usually filled – new mothers can only stay at the hospital for four hours after they deliver their babies, Becker said.

Moreover, premature babies have had to share incubators in the hospital's neonatal unit, said Dr. Habib, Nangahar neonatology. Nangahar is eastern Afghanistan's only neonatal care unit.

"While we were setting up the incubator, there were twins weighing (one pound) each (sharing) an open warmer," Becker said.

————— See **UPGRADE**, Page 3

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*Destroyed vehicles can be seen Sunday at a devastated Riyadh housing complex.*

## Saudis expect another attack

**RIYADH**, Saudi Arabia—Saudi security officials expect another terrorist attack at any time and ordered 4,600 troops Sunday to the holy city of Mecca to provide additional security until Ramadan is over, government sources said.

The death toll from Saturday night's suspected al Qaeda attack on a residential compound in Riyadh rose to 17 on Sunday, including five children, the Saudi Interior Ministry said. More than 110 were wounded, and government sources said as many as 25 may have died.

Meanwhile, the government pledged to track down those behind the attack.

"We will get the perpetrators no matter how long it takes," Interior Minister Prince Nayef told Saudi state television as he inspected the devastated compound.

"All those who are propelled to do these acts must stop or surrender because it would be better for them and their salvation. There is no crime more heinous than this."

The attackers stormed the affluent neighborhood near Riyadh's diplomatic quarter late Saturday, first firing on security guards and then driving their explosives-laden cars through the gates.

Sources said the attackers apparently had stolen a jeep from Saudi security forces to disguise themselves. Saudi guards opened the gate upon seeing the jeep before the attackers opened fire, the sources said.

The subsequent explosions destroyed much of the neighborhood and killed or wounded dozens of residents, journalists and officials in Riyadh said. The compound is thought to have housed mainly Arab expatriates.

Westerners who work in Saudi Arabia are

considering sending their families home because of the dangers there and moving their companies out of Saudi Arabia until it becomes more safe, some Western businessmen told *CNN*.



*A U.S. helicopter flies near the site of Friday's Black Hawk crash.*

## Missile downed Black Hawk

**TIKRIT**, Iraq—Military sources say they believe a Soviet-built surface-to-air missile brought down a Black Hawk helicopter that crashed near Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, killing all six aboard.

Friday's deadly crash added to a bloody week for the coalition. Thirty-seven U.S. troops and one Polish soldier died in Iraq in the first week of November alone.

Sources with the 4th Infantry Division told *CNN* they suspect a Soviet-built Kolomna KBM Strela-3 low-altitude surface-to-air missile (SAM) hit the helicopter, using an infrared guidance system.

Earlier, U.S. military officials had ruled out the use of SAMs in the crash but had not discounted the Black Hawk went down as a result of hostile fire.

"We do believe it was brought down by ground fire," said Lt. Col. Steve Russell, commander 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Division.

Only one of the 37 Americans who died during the week was killed in a non-hostile incident. The military has confirmed that all other deaths were caused by coalition enemies.

The latest coalition deaths occurred Saturday, when three U.S. soldiers were killed in two separate vehicle attacks.

Two soldiers were killed when their vehicle ran over a homemade bomb on a main highway west of Fallujah about 8:30 a.m. (12:30 a.m. ET) near the village of Sichir, about 30 miles (48 km) west of Baghdad.

A third soldier was killed Saturday night when an improvised explosive device hit a mounted convoy in Baghdad's al-Wehda district about 7:45 p.m. (11:45 a.m. ET).

Meanwhile Saturday, U.S. forces attacked targets in the Tikrit area in what they called a "show of force."

Two F-16s fighter planes flew low over the marshy region and dropped at least two 500-pound bombs near the crash site north of Baghdad.



*Lee Malvo*

## Sniper suspect Malvo set for trial

**WASHINGTON**—Lee Malvo, the 18-year-old suspect in a string of sniper-style shootings that terrorized the U.S. capital region last year, was headed for trial Monday in the murder of an FBI analyst.

Malvo, 17 at the time of the attacks, faces two murder counts and a weapons charge in the death of Linda Franklin, who was gunned down on October 14, 2002, as she loaded purchases into her car in a parking lot in Washington's Virginia suburbs.

One of the charges against Malvo invokes Virginia's new anti-terrorism law, enacted after the September 11, 2001, attacks. Both murder charges carry a possible death sentence upon conviction; Virginia permits the execution of criminals as young as 16, and Malvo is being tried there as an adult.

His trial was moved from Fairfax County, just west of Washington, to the city of Chesapeake, some 200 miles away, in search of jurors with little exposure to the case.

Malvo's attorneys plan an insanity defense, arguing that their young client was brainwashed by his alleged accomplice, 42-year-old John Muhammad.



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not only providing a change for U.S. troops. The new structures will be appearing in housing areas of coalition troops and civilian employees as well.

“Coalition (troops have) them,” said Horvat. “Brown and Root (personnel) have them and actually there is one whole area here called contractor village (which consists of B-hut structures).”

The increased construction falls under CENTCOM standards of temporary housing and allows for the building of B-huts on base, not to show permanence, but to raise the standard for troops serv-

ing here, he said.

“It’s more of a comfort thing,” he said. “It falls under CENTCOM standards (of) temporary housing.”

The wooden structures have no concrete foundation thus not considered permanent housing, just an upgrade from the tents, the only option Bagram personnel and troops have seen until recently.

The small homes offer troops protection from environmental conditions including wind, snow, sand and cold.

“They offer a nice place to stay (and) are an improvement from the tent,” said Horvat. “You have installation, electric,

walls and ceilings.

“It’s a lot warmer (in the winter and) in the summer it’s a lot cooler,” he said. “You don’t get the wind (and) they’re a lot quieter.”

On average, B-huts house up to eight people, as does the majority housing option, the tent. But with the B-hut comes a little more breathing room.

“Most of the tents are 16 by 32 feet,” said Horvat. “Where these (B-huts) are 18 by 36 (feet).”

B-huts are a welcomed addition to housing on Bagram and personnel in charge of creating the structures said they are excited to give people working here better housing.

on using a new ventilator. Becker showed the staff how to use intravenous infusion pumps, vital sign monitors and suction machines. The hospital had very little in the way of instrumentation, let alone the knowledge to use such, before Task Force 44 arrived.

Ziegler trained the hospital staff on how to use the new centrifuges, which separates types of blood cells.

“They’re still using whole-blood transfusions,” a practice that’s certainly out-dated and dangerous, Ziegler said. “Hopefully, we can go back and change their minds about (whole-blood transfusions)” and other obsolete practices, he said.

At Nangahar, the soldiers also set up a complete surgical intensive care unit with beds and other donated equipment from several U.S. agencies.

“The equipment and training that we did give them will step up their healthcare considerably,” he said. “From a nursing aspect, we were able to step them up” closer to U.S. standards.

Zeigler said he was disappointed that he couldn’t do more to improve lab testing capabilities at the hospital. Some of the donated U.S. lab equipment used a lot of expendable parts, which would be nearly impossible for the hospital to resupply.

Public and Mir Wais Hospitals split the rest of the equipment and supplies.

“They were very excited to have us there and thankful for the training,” Freudenreich said. “Our ongoing support of the hospitals is very important” to the coalition’s mission in Afghanistan, she said.

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The addition of a U.S.-donated incubator to two existing Chinese incubators should help alleviate a condition of overcrowding of premature babies, Habib said.

But Soldiers said they found poor conditions virtually everywhere they looked in the hospital.

“Honestly, I thought it smelled like a zoo,” said Sgt. Kyle Ziegler, a lab technician. “What I guess you’d call mopping was really just throwing water on a dirty floor and pushing it around with a squeegee. Syringes with needles attached were on the floor.”

The hospital staff had to clean up the place before the task force handed over supplies and equipment, Spc. Anja Freudenreich said.

“The sterilization there was sub-standard,” said Freudenreich, a respiratory therapist. “We made sure they cleaned up the facility.”

Around the facility, Soldiers found out-of-date equipment and practices that would never be seen in stateside hospitals.

Freudenreich said she saw things there she thought were “not even in existence anymore.”

Because it is a university hospital, Ziegler said it was important that Nangahar modernize its standards of care, to include equipment, methods and sanitization, “to be able to teach the next generation” of Afghan doctors.

Task Force 44 members had to train hospital workers how to use some of the equipment.

Freudenreich gave a two-day class



Photo by Capt. Scott Becker

*Local workers unload hospital equipment from a tractor-trailer at the Nangahar University Teaching Hospital in Jalalabad in early October. The hospital had not received new supplies in 23 years.*

## U.S. donation improves ANA capabilities

The first 59 of 400 2 ½-ton trucks listed for donation by the United States to the Afghan National Army (ANA) arrived at Pol-e-Charki Nov. 4 to 6. These vehicles, which can transport troops and equipment, will sustain a growing ANA.

"The overall mission here is to build up the ANA and assist the government in working toward a democratic state," said U.S. Army Capt. William Raben, a liaison to the maintenance officers for the ANA's 3<sup>rd</sup> brigade. "These trucks are part of an overall 510 vehicles being donated under the U.S. Afghan Support Act. The vehicles will help the ANA become self-sufficient."

The 2 ½-ton trucks, which will be arriving on a weekly basis until all 400 are present, will give the ANA increased mobility. "These vehicles are very important to the growth and development of the ANA," said 1st Sgt. Mahrobudin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Kandak, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade (who joined the ANA 20 months ago from Parwan Province). "Before, we had to rent vehicles for operations. Trucks like these will facilitate our ability to deploy outside of Kabul and to move ammunition and military equipment from point to point. The ANA becomes stronger as we begin to develop these capabilities which we can now provide ourselves." The trucks will soon be divided up amongst the three ANA brigades.

Raben echoed Mahrobudin by saying, "International donations from over 20 countries now have dramatically helped the ANA become more flexible and increases their (ANA's) options for future missions."

Maintaining the equipment and training soldiers to operate these vehicles safely will be a high-priority concern for ANA leaders during the coming weeks. "Just taking care of equipment like any good army does will help the ANA with its longevity and potential to expand," said Raben.

"The most important need to address in Afghanistan right now is assisting in reconstruction and building up the ANA," reiterated Mahrobudin. "As I see these trucks for the first time, I realize my soldiers will be responsible for performing maintenance and learning to safely drive these vehicles which will give us greater confidence in our ability to serve our country. We are so grateful to all the countries that have donated valuable equipment for our national army."

*(Information provided by Spc. Douglas DeMaio, OMC-A.)*

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

### "Down With Love"

1530Z at the MWR building:

Aaaah... it's New York City in 1963, and love is blooming between a journalist and a feminist advice author, who's falling head over heels despite her beau's playboy lifestyle.

**Tomorrow's movie:** "Changing Lanes"



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Clear H: 66F L: 32F	Mostly Cloudy H: 66F L: 37F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 68F L: 37F	Mostly Cloudy H: 70F L: 39F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Partly Cloudy H: 68F L: 34F	Mostly Cloudy H: 68F L: 39F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Partly Cloudy H: 76F L: 44F	Partly Cloudy H: 79F L: 50F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *SI.com*)

## Panthers edge Bucs NFC in showdown

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** – The Carolina Panthers refused to talk any trash before their game against Tampa Bay. After beating the Super Bowl champions for the second time this season, they wouldn't shut up.

Jake Delhomme's 5-yard touchdown pass to Steve Smith with 1:06 remaining overcame a late Tampa Bay rally and lifted the Panthers to a 27-24 victory Sunday in the matchup of two suddenly bitter rivals.



*Jake Delhomme completed five of six pass attempts on the game-winning drive*

The victory silenced the Bucs (4-5) and dropped them three games behind the Panthers (7-2) in the NFC South and Carolina holds the tiebreaker.

"I'll say it: I can't stand them," said defensive tackle Kris Jenkins. "When they pull on their red and we pull on our blue, it's like the Bloods and the Crips. They talk too much, they want to flash 'I'm a superstar.' Well, now that talk don't mean nothing.

"We beat them not once, but twice, and I'm going to celebrate while they go home to watch TV."

Defensive end Simeon Rice guaranteed a Buccaneers victory earlier this week, but the defending champions are now left with a rocky road ahead to even make the playoffs.

Still, not even their third division loss of the season — the Bucs lost to New Orleans last week — silenced Rice.

"There's going to be a guarantee next week, too, because that's me," Rice said. "No situation is going to break me."

## Pistons top Nets in battle of powers

**AUBURN HILLS, Mich.** – Richard Hamilton scored 24 points, Corliss Williamson added 20 off the bench and the Detroit Pistons beat the New Jersey Nets 98-84 Sunday for their fifth straight win.

It was the first meeting between the teams since New Jersey's sweep in the Eastern Conference finals last season.

Ben Wallace had 12 points and 11 rebounds for Detroit, which improved to 5-1. Chauncey Billups and Elden Campbell scored 11 each.

Jason Kidd led the Nets with 18 points and 11 assists, and Kerry Kittles scored 17. Jason Collins added 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Detroit trailed by as many as 13 in the first quarter, but rallied to take

a 48-47 edge at halftime.

The teams traded baskets throughout the third, but Detroit finished with a 6-2 run to take a 75-70 lead into the final period.

The Pistons moved the margin to 82-74 with a six-point spurt and had a chance to take a double-digit lead, but Lindsey Hunter missed a 3-pointer with 8:30 left.

New Jersey scored the next four points, but two baskets from Hamilton, including a 3-pointer, and Williamson's dunk put Detroit up 89-78 with five minutes to go.

## Kenseth finishes fourth to claim first (and last) Winston Cup championship

**ROCKINGHAM, N.C.** –

The pressure that has been Matt Kenseth's constant companion for the past few months is gone.

"I feel like the world has been lifted off my shoulders today," Kenseth said Sunday after a fourth-place finish in the Pop Secret 400 clinched his long-anticipated Winston Cup championship.

Kenseth took the points lead in the fourth race of the season and kept it the rest of the way. He said the tension kept building even as he moved out to what seemed to be an untouchable lead.

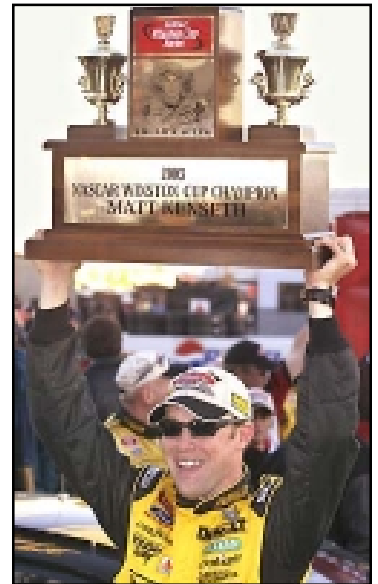
"I kind of spun out in August and September a little bit reading everybody's columns," Kenseth said, smiling. "Those things actually add pressure because I don't want to be the guy that goes in the record book that had that big of a lead and blew it."

Bill Elliott won Sunday's race, but it was Kenseth who got most of the attention after wrapping up the first Cup title for both himself and car owner Jack Roush.

Kenseth came into Sunday's race knowing he needed only to finish seventh or better to end the suspense after leading the points and feeling the pressure of being out front since March 9 in Atlanta.

"There's a feeling you get in your stomach when you're leading the race and you see somebody coming up behind you," Kenseth explained. "It's an empty feeling in the pit of your stomach, and that's what it feels like, like I've been leading a race for the last three months.

"I got all this stuff bottled up inside because I didn't want to get too excited the last few months. I don't know what I'm going to do now. It's an awesome feeling."



*Matt Kenseth took the points lead for good just four weeks into the season.*



# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## Afghan security forces foil tanker attack

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP Wire)** – Afghan security forces said on Saturday that they foiled an attempted attack on the U.S.-led coalition's fuel supplies.

Agents in the eastern Logar province discovered an artillery shell hidden inside a civilian tanker truck hired by the U.S. military, officials told Afghan state television. The shell was packed with extra explosives, they said. The truck's Afghan driver was arrested and an investigation was continuing, they added.

Two weeks ago in the southeastern Paktika province, Taliban gunmen riding motorbikes stopped two civilian tanker trucks destined for a U.S. base at Orgun, which is close to the border with Pakistan. The attackers used rocket-propelled grenades to destroy the vehicles, but the Afghan drivers were unhurt and allowed to go free.

## Taliban threaten women, taxi drivers

**PESHAWAR (AFP)** – Elements of the defunct Taliban are threatening to kill taxi drivers and other Afghans if they work with foreigners, states a pamphlet received here on Friday.

The pamphlet, typed in Pushto and signed by someone purporting to be the Taliban's "cultural and information officer" for eastern Afghanistan's Laghman province, was sent to Peshawar-based newspapers this week.

It says taxi-drivers "must avoid picking up and dropping foreigners, otherwise the foreigners would be killed and their luggage set on fire." "If the driver and the owner of the taxi were killed, the (defunct) Taliban would not be responsible," the pamphlet stated.

It also threatened the "death penalty" to Afghan women "who do not leave their jobs" and to "Afghanis spying for the U.S. and its allies."

Resurgent Taliban fighters in Afghanistan's south and southeast border areas are targeting foreign and Afghan aid workers, officials and troops in a guerrilla campaign the U.S. military has said is aimed at reclaiming power. The pamphlet called on Afghans to drive foreigners out, saying they should "unite and fight against occupying forces in Afghanistan."

Afghan authorities in Laghman province, which lies between Kabul and the Pakistani border, were told "to withdraw their support to American forces otherwise they will have to face repercussions."

The pamphlet could not be independently verified.

## Afghan returnees reach 3 million

**(Kabul Daily)** – The United Nations refugee agency, the UNHCR, says three million people have returned to Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban government two years ago.

Many of the returnees have come from Iran and Pakistan under a UN programme, joining those making their own way home.

The UNHCR says about a third of the returnees are settling in the Kabul area for security and work reasons.

But the refugee agency says as winter approaches thousands of people in the capital still lack adequate shelter, with many squatting in ruined buildings or living in tents.

## Two explosions rock Afghan province

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)** – A remote-controlled bomb ripped through the home of the governor of a southern Afghan province, shattering the door and windows of his bedroom but causing no injuries, the deputy governor said Sunday.

Ten minutes later on Saturday night, a second bomb exploded in the provincial military headquarters in the city of Qalat, the capital of Zabul province, said the official, Maulvi Mohammed Umer.

Gov. Hafizullah Hashami was in his bedroom when the bomb exploded, but he escaped harm, Umer said, speaking by satellite telephone from Qalat, about 80 miles northeast of Kandahar.

No one claimed responsibility for either explosion. But Umer blamed insurgents of the Taliban militia who ruled Afghanistan until they were ousted in 2001 by a U.S.-led military coalition.

*Time Over Target: "Four seconds, that's great sir, but time over target isn't a factor in this test."*



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support